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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

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MILGROM

HOW YA GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN AT THE MORGUE AFTER THEY'VE SEEN N.Y.C.?

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

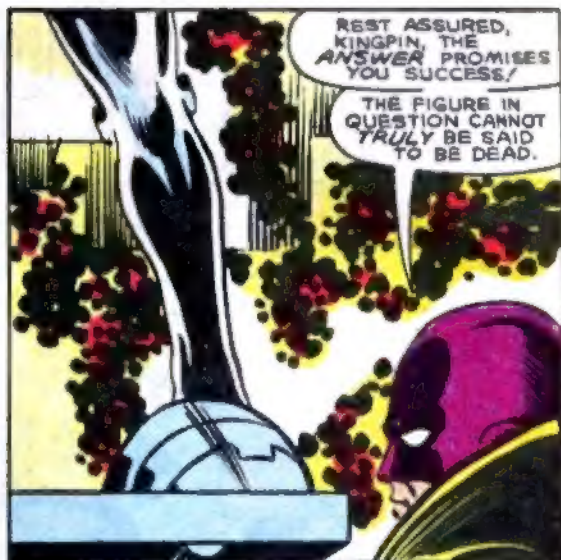
AL MILGROM
STORY AND PENCILS
JIM MOONEY
FINISHES
DIANA ALBERS
LETTERING
GLYNIS WEIN
COLORING
DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IN THE LABORATORY
COMPLEX SOME STORIES
BELOW HIS PENTHOUSE
APARTMENT, WILSON FISK--
THE KINGPIN OF CRIME--
CONSULTS WITH HIS SUPER-
POWERED AGENT, THE
ANSWER.

SOON, KINGPIN,
YOU WILL HAVE
AN ASSASSIN
WORTHY OF YOU.

THAT REMAINS
TO BE SEEN.

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THE LIGHT RADIATING FROM THE MECHANISM BURNS HELLISH BRIGHT AND THE TECHNICIANS GIVE GROUND BEFORE THE AWESOME GLOW...



EVEN THE ANSWER INSTINCTIVELY RAISES A HAND TO PROTECT HIS EYES, THOUGH HIS POWER WOULD HAVE COMPENSATED IN A MOMENT.

ONLY THE KINGPIN OF CRIME BRAVES THE GLARE.



SQUINTING UNFLINCHINGLY INTO THE HEART OF THE INFERNO, HE GRINS.

SELDOM DOES THE KINGPIN SHOW EMOTION, BUT AT THIS INSTANT HE CANNOT HELP BUT REJOICE IN THE POWER HE WIELDS.

WHO BUT THE KINGPIN COULD THIS PLAY WITH ENERGIES THAT DICTATE MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH?



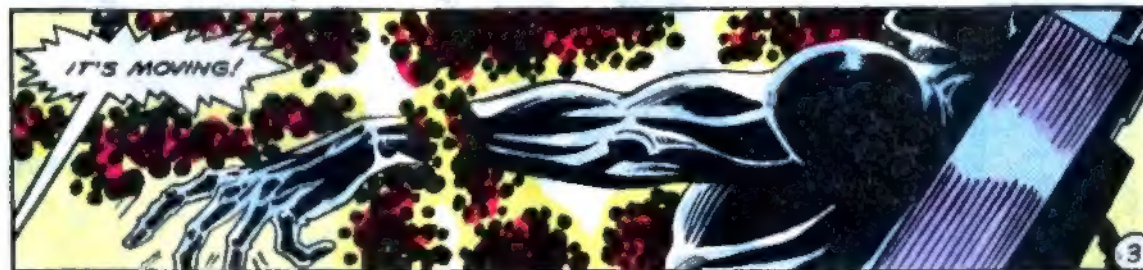
BUT THE SMILE IS A FLEETING ONE, GIVING WAY TO A LOOK OF SOUL-FELT SORROW. HIS THOUGHTS TURN TO ONE WHOM ALL HIS POWER CANNOT HELP-- ONE MOST DEAR TO HIM--

--HIS WIFE, VANESSA, WHO IS GRAVELY ILL IN BODY AND SOUL.

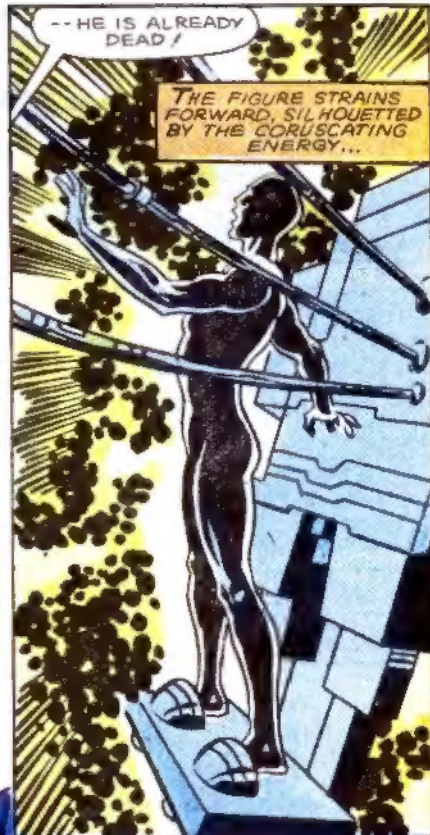


BUT HIS SAD REVERIE IS BRUTALLY TORN FROM HIM AS...

LOOK! THE BODY--ITS ARM--



IT'S MOVING!



BUT HERE, ACROSS TOWN FROM THE KINGPIN'S LABORATORY, THE SOURCE OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT ARE TWO SEPARATE FIGURES...

CLOAK AND DAGGER





THE ARTIFICIAL DRUGS THAT WE INJECTED INTO US-- AN EXPERIMENT ON RUNAWAY CHILDREN BY ORGANIZED CRIME--GAVE YOU YOUR CURSE OF DARKNESS...



...AND THE BLESSING OF LIGHT, THE POWER TO GIVE OR TAKE THAT LIFE ENERGY IN ALL LIVING THINGS.

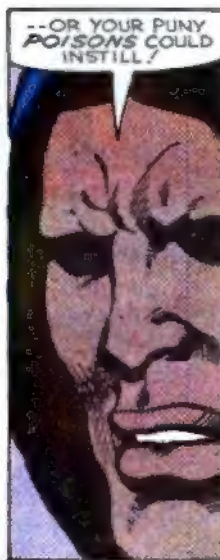
YES, BUT IN ALL THE TIME WE'VE HAD THESE ABILITIES, I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.



WHATSAMATTER, PALT? YOUR GIRLFRIEND DON'T LOOK SO HOT!

SHE NEED A FIX? THAT WHY YOU WERE CHASING US-- FOR THIS?







NO, CLOAK...
DON'T!



DON'T LET YOUR
HUNGER CONSUME
YOUR SOUL AS
WELL AS THEIRS!



MY DARKNESS
NEEDS THEIR
LIGHT--AND
YOU'RE TOO
WEAK NOW TO
FEED ME ANY
OF YOURS.

I **MUST**
KEEP THEM!



CLOAK...
PLEASE!



I--I--



--VERY
WELL.

W--WE'RE
BACK!

I--IT WAS SO COLD--
SO VERY **COLD!**



THE DARKNESS--
I COULDN'T EVEN
SEE MY HAND IN
FRONT OF MY FACE.

COME, CLOAK,
YOU MUST
HELP ME LEARN
WHERE MY
LIGHT IS
GOING!

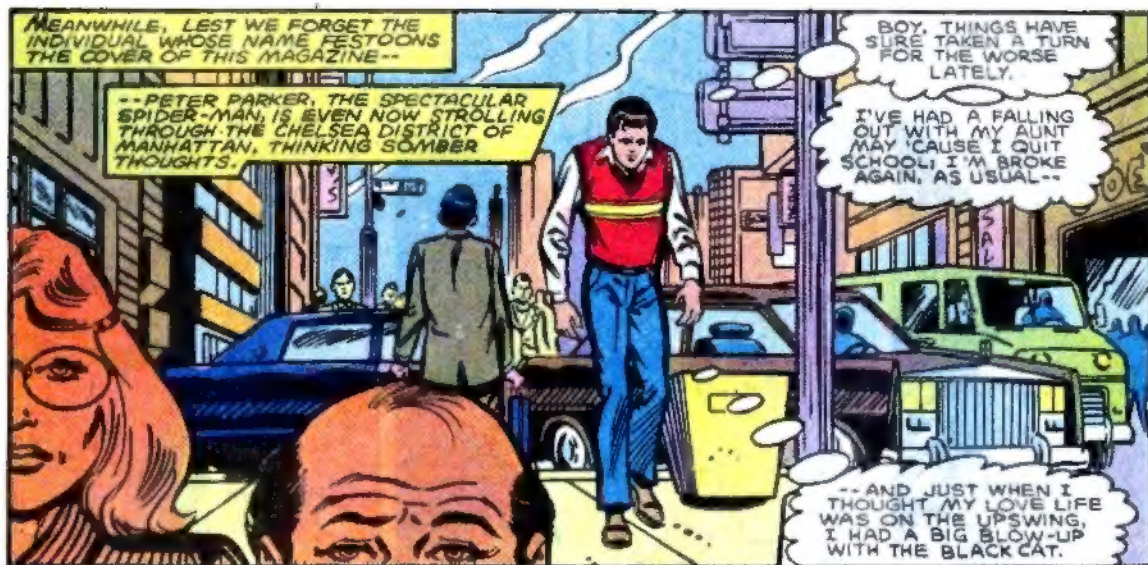


YES. WITHOUT YOUR LIGHT
TO SUSTAIN ME, THE DARKNESS
WITHIN ME COULD RISE UP AND
CONSUME EVERY LIVING
THING ON THIS EARTH.



HIS CLOAK WRAPS
AROUND THEM LIKE
A THING ALIVE--

--AND TRANSPORTS
THEM THROUGH
THE DARK DIMEN-
SION THAT IS
CLOAK'S BODY.



MEANWHILE, LEST WE FORGET THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE NAME FEESTOONS THE COVER OF THIS MAGAZINE--

--PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, IS EVEN NOW STROLLING THROUGH THE CHELSEA DISTRICT OF MANHATTAN, THINKING SOMBER THOUGHTS.

BOY, THINGS HAVE SURE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE LATELY.

I'VE HAD A FALLING OUT WITH MY AUNT MAY 'CAUSE I QUIT SCHOOL. I'M BROKE AGAIN, AS USUAL--

--AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT MY LOVE LIFE WAS ON THE UPSWING, I HAD A BIG BLOW-UP WITH THE BLACK CAT.



WHY CAN'T I HAVE A NICE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP LIKE THE ONE I HAD WITH GWEN STACY BEFORE SHE DIED?

HARRY OSBORN AND LIZ SURE SEEM HAPPY WITH THEIR MARRIAGE. I WISH...



HEY, PETE--WOOL GATHERING?

HARRY--LIZ, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU TWO.



AND WHY NOT? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET US FOR LUNCH WITH SHA SHAN! ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S ABOUT?

NOT REALLY.



SHA CALLED ME THIS MORNING AND SAID SHE NEEDED TO TALK TO US, SO I SUGGESTED SHE MEET US HERE.

SHE HINTED IT WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH FLASH--BUT SHE WOULDN'T SAY MORE OVER THE PHONE.

AND THIS IS THE RESTAURANT YOU CHOSE? AH, PETER, MY LAD, YOU TRAVEL STRICTLY FIRST CLASS ALL THE WAY.

HEY, HARRY, JUST BECAUSE YOU USED TO BE MY ROOMMATE DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO BE SARCASTIC.

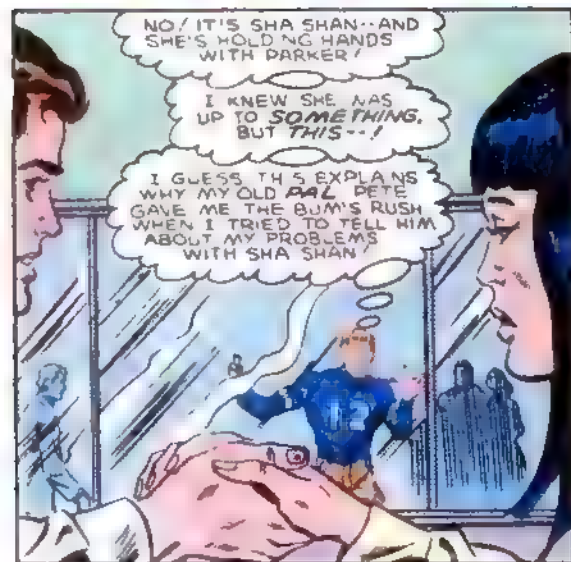
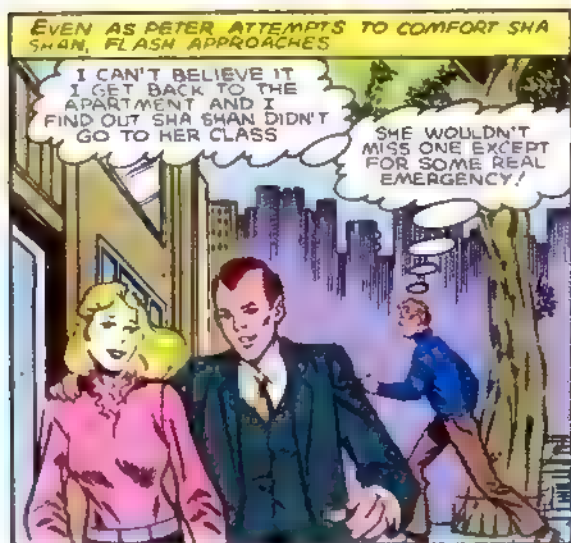
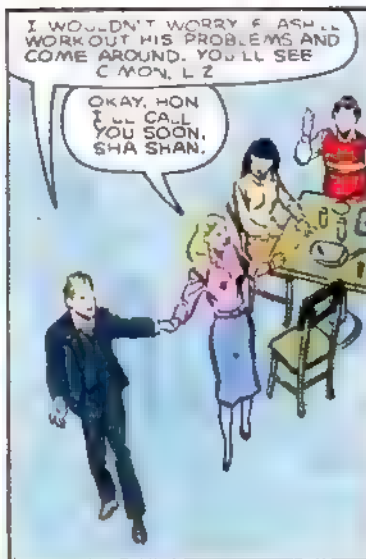
BESIDES, I'VE HEARD THAT THIS PLACE HAS THE HOTTEST CHILI IN TOWN!

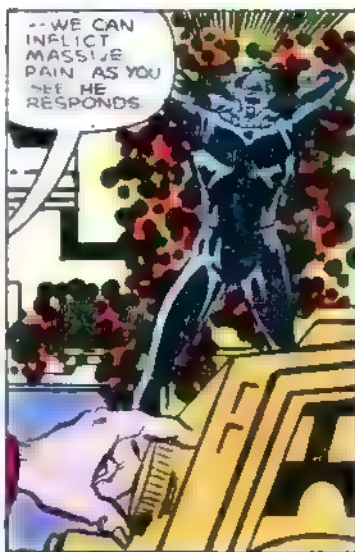
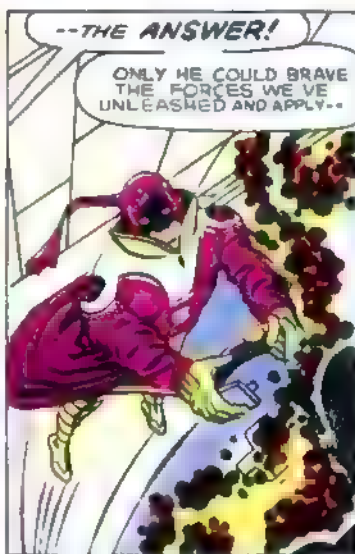
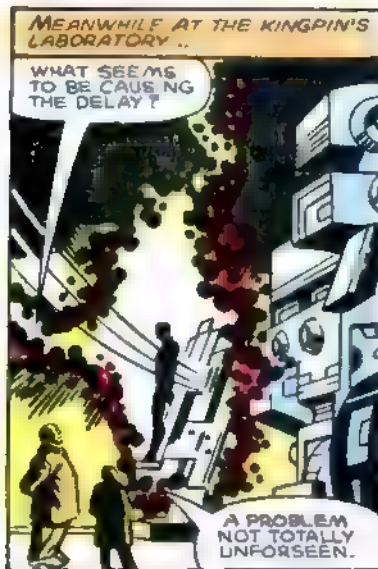


THERE'S SHA SHAN NOW.

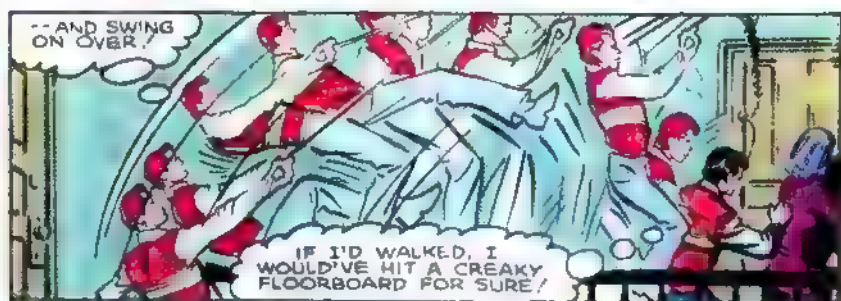
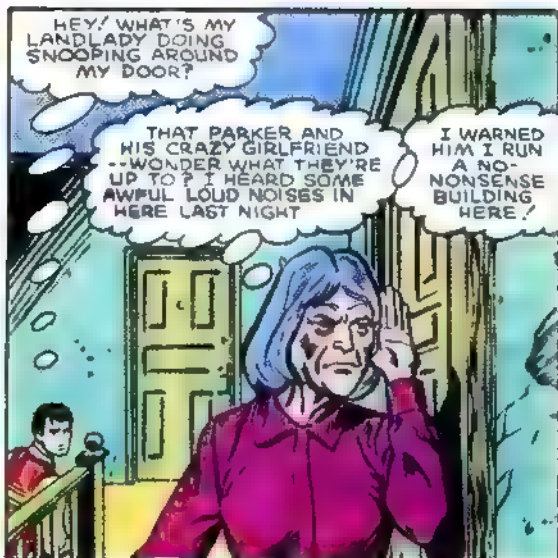
PETER, HARRY, LIZ... I AM SO GLAD YOU COULD COME.

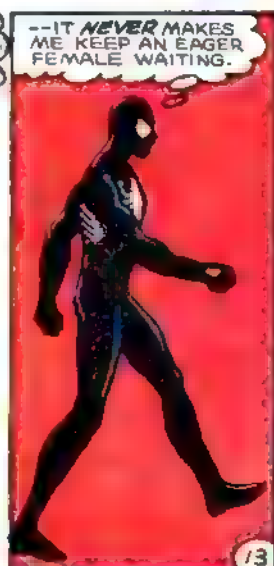
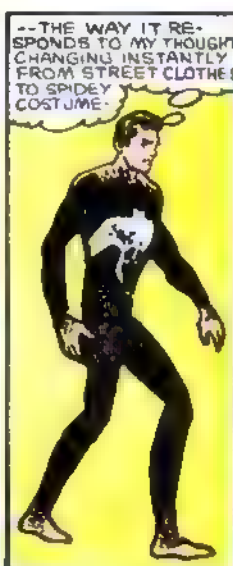
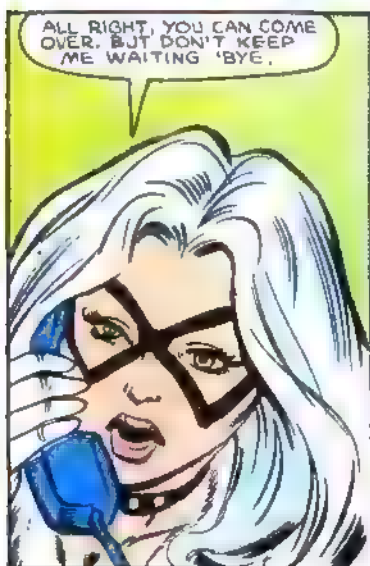
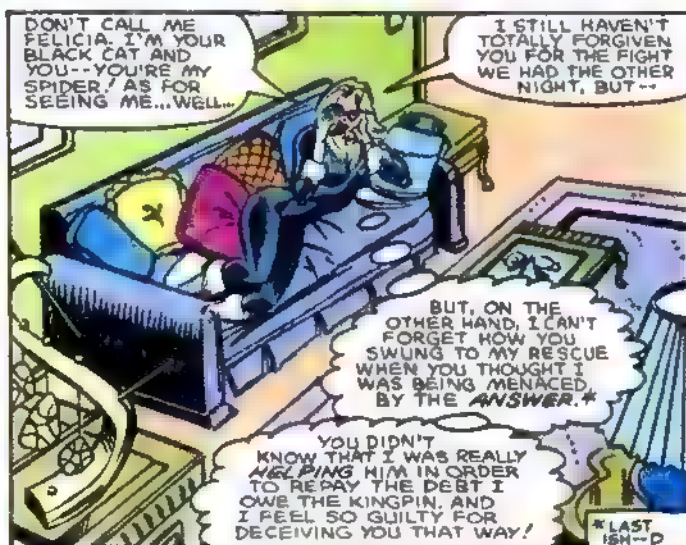
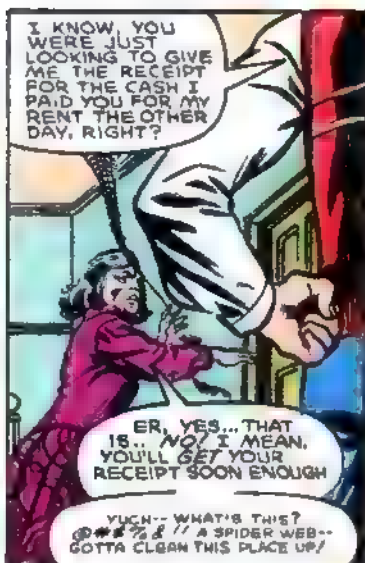


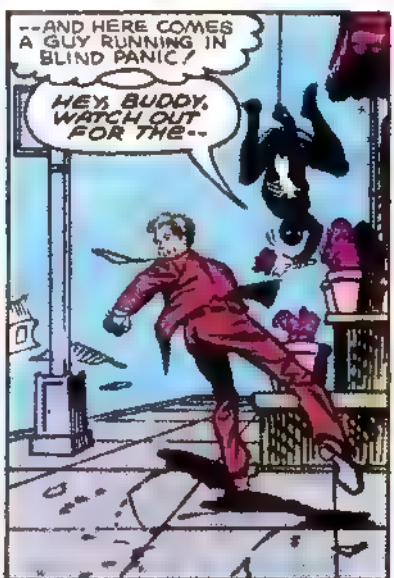
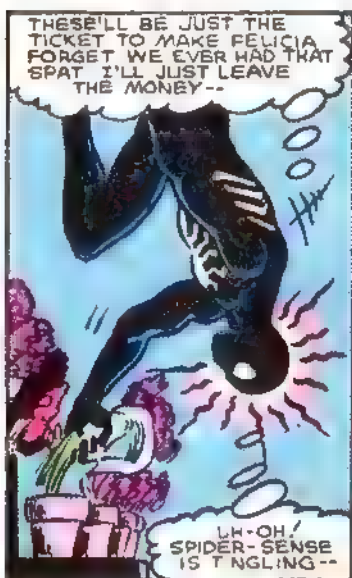
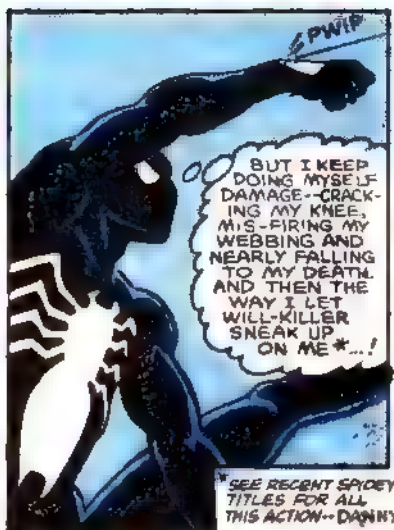
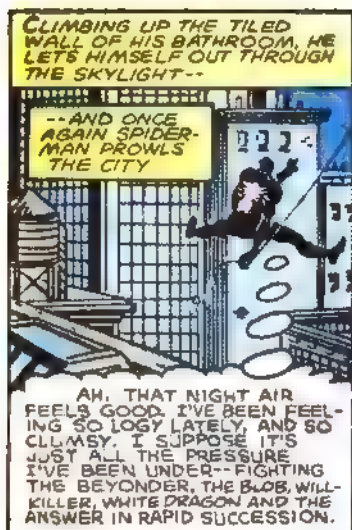


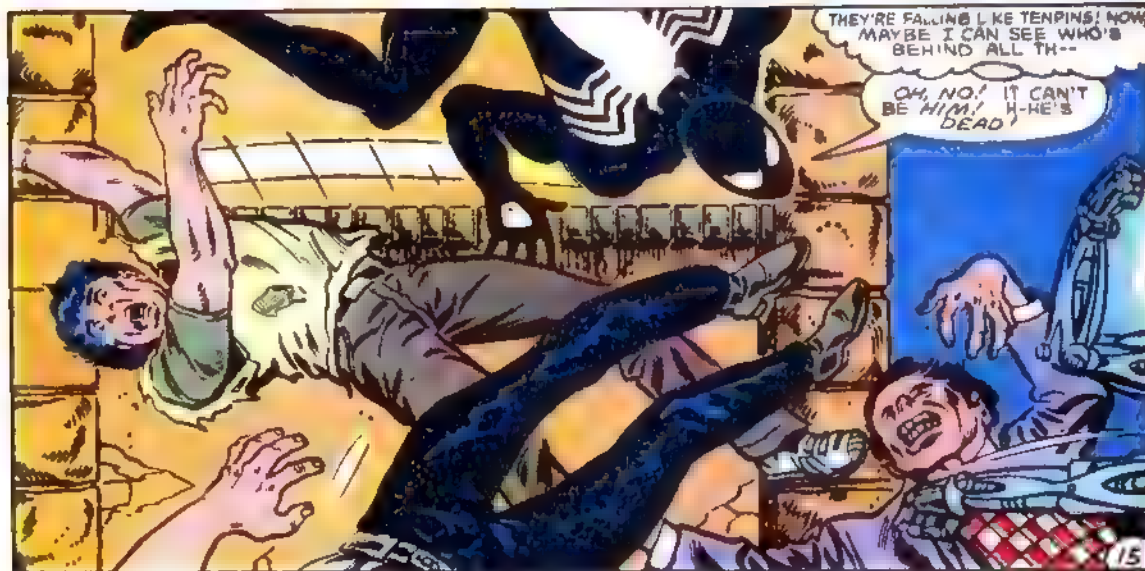
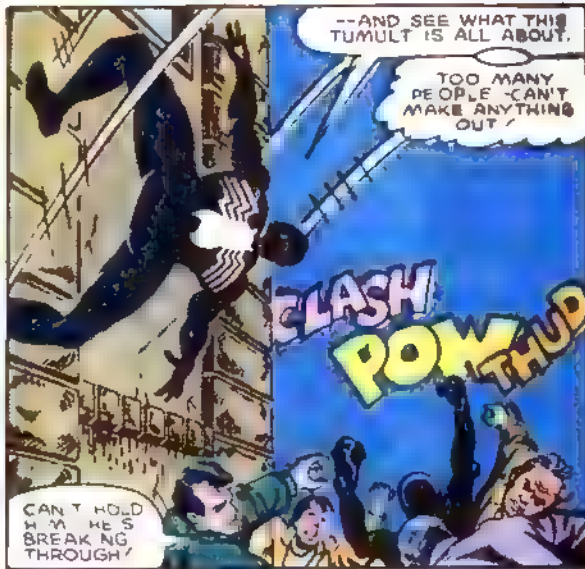
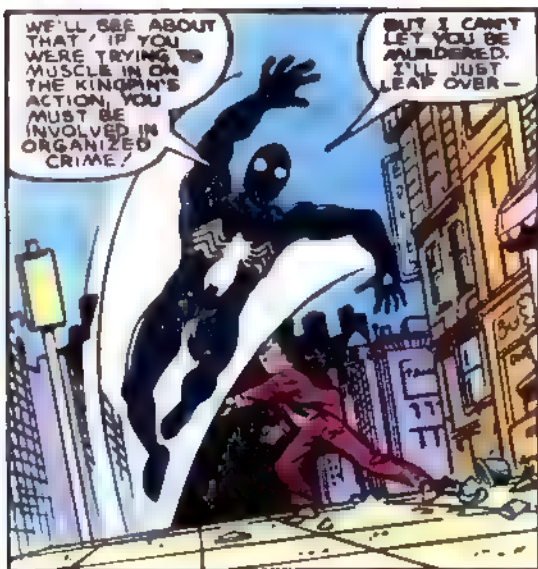
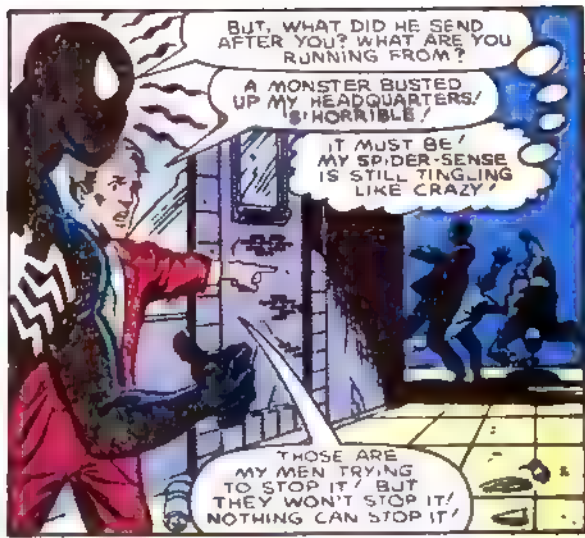


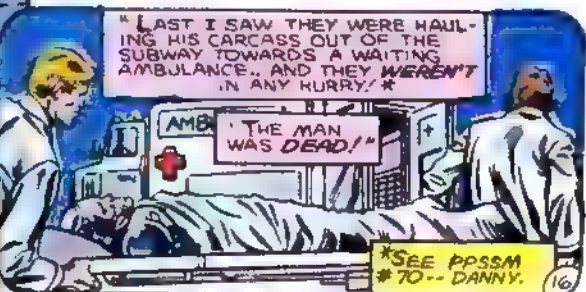
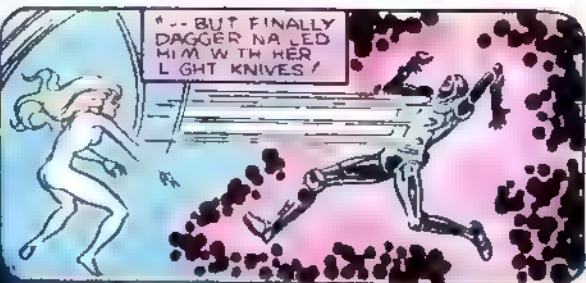
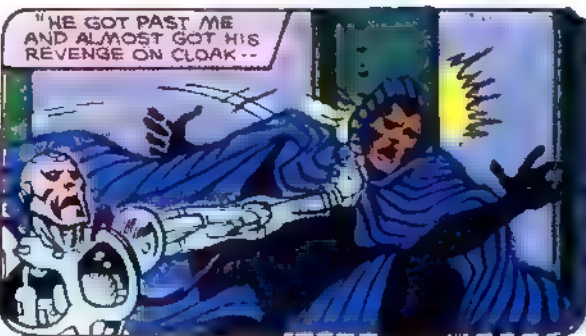
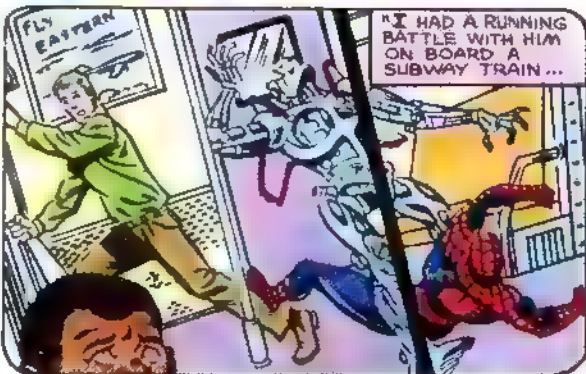
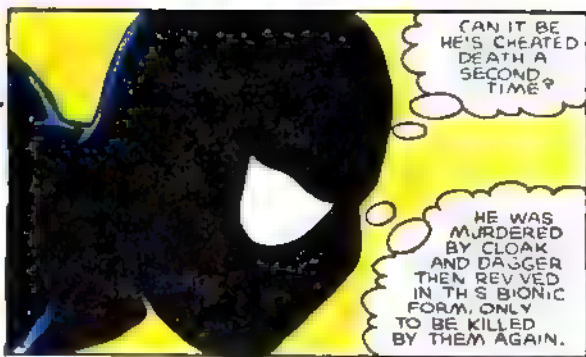
WHILE THE KINGPIN SETS HIS MACHINATIONS INTO MOTION, PETER PARKER, HAVING PARTED FROM A TROUBLED SHA SHAN, NEARS HIS APARTMENT BUILDING...

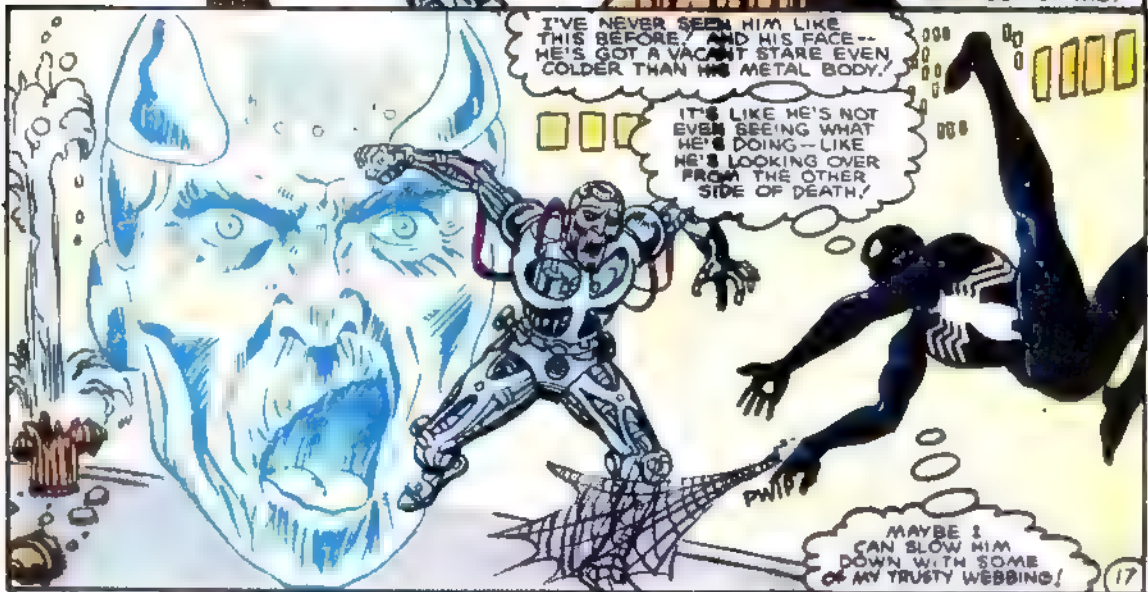
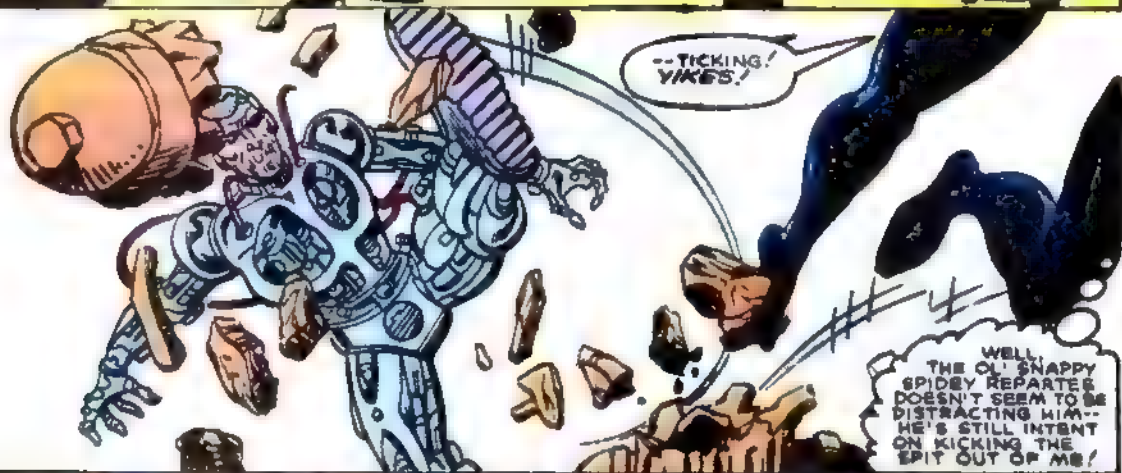


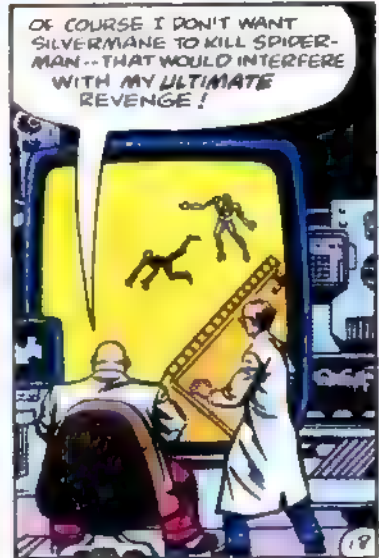
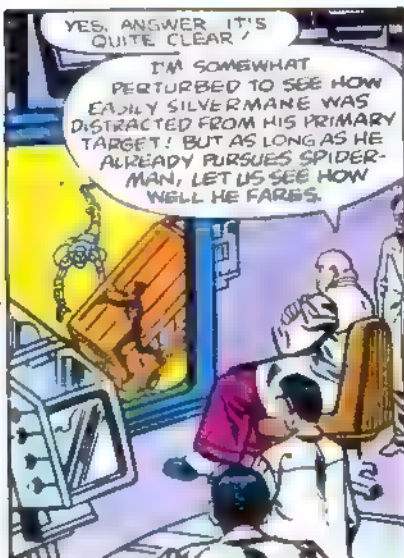
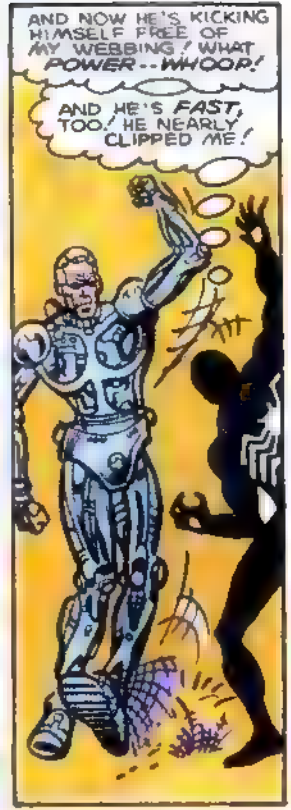
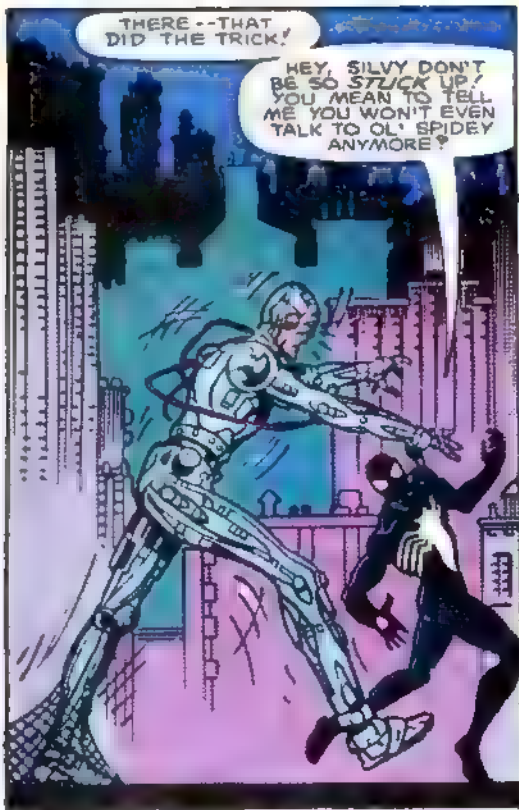


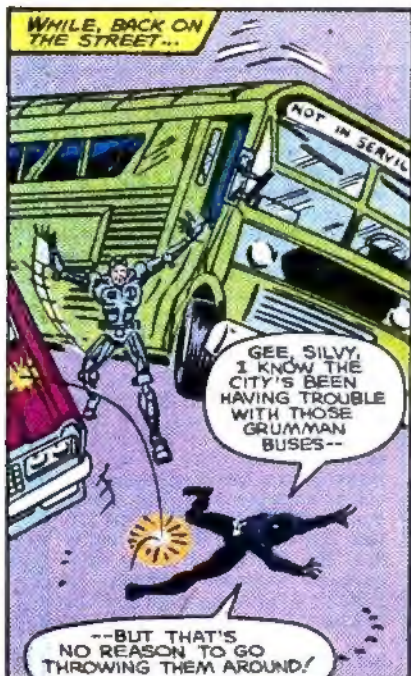














RUIN! GET AWAY FROM HERE! HE'S TOTALLY BERSERK!

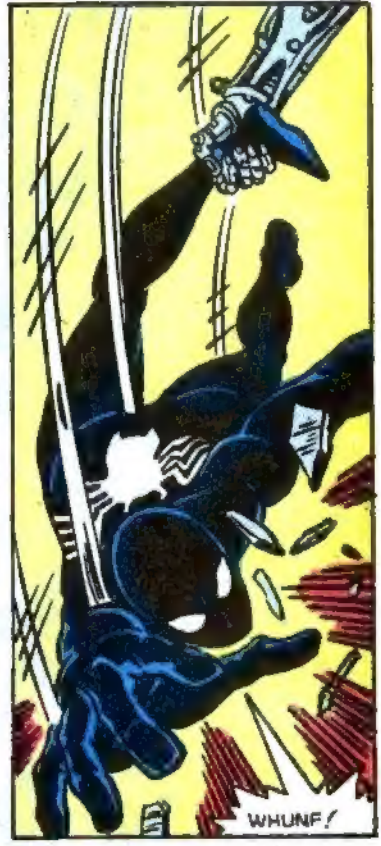
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!



NOW, SILVY CAN'T WE DISCUSS THIS LIKE TWO MATURE--

ARRGH!

THUNG!



WHUNF!



W--HE'S KILLING ME! CAN'T BREAK HIS GRIP!

POW!

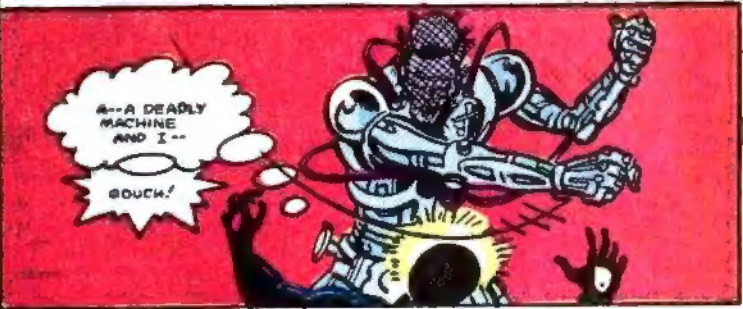
GOT TO TRY SOME WEBBING...



NO GOOD! IT DOESN'T FAZE HIM--HE JUST KEEPS PLAYING AWAY!

HE'S LIKE A MACHINE--

--UHHNGH!

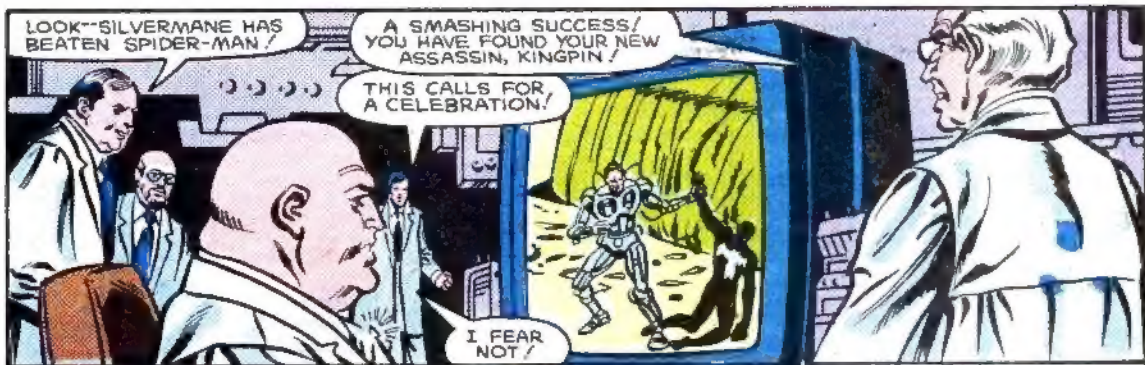


A--A DEADLY MACHINE AND I--

BOUCH!



--CAN'T STOP... HIM!



LOOK--SILVERMANE HAS BEATEN SPIDER-MAN!

A SMASHING SUCCESS! YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR NEW ASSASSIN, KINGPIN!

THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!

I FEAR NOT!



WH- WHY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'LL GRANT YOU THAT SILVERMANE IS POWERFUL, BUT HE LACKS THE SKILLS AND SUBTLETY REQUIRED FOR DELICATE ASSIGNMENTS.



LOOK! LOOK AT THE CROWD THAT HAS GATHERED TO WATCH THE MELEE! TOO MUCH ATTENTION IS BEING CALLED TO THE OPERATION.

IT IS AS I FEARED. THIS UNDEAD BODY LACKS THE NECESSARY FINESSE.



HAVE SILVERMANE RELEASE SPIDER-MAN BEFORE HE DOES PERMANENT HARM. THEN SUMMON HIM BACK HERE!



YES, SIR. AT ONCE!

THAT'S STRANGE!

WHAT IS?!



SILVERMANE ISN'T RESPONDING TO THE SUBMISSION COLLAR! HE WON'T RELEASE SPIDER-MAN! HE WON'T RETURN!

AS THE KINGPIN'S TECHNICIANS WORK FEVERISHLY OVER THE CONTROLS, THE BLACK CAT PACES THE FLOOR OF HER ELEGANT APARTMENT...

WHERE'S SPIDER? HE SAID HE'D BE COMING RIGHT OVER... AND IT DOESN'T TAKE HIM THAT LONG TO SWING ACROSS TOWN.

MAYBE HE CHANGED HIS MIND. MAYBE HE'S STILL MAD ABOUT THAT FIGHT WE HAD. MAYBE HE FOUND SOME MOUSEY LITTLE GIRL WHO LIKES HIM AS THAT--THAT PETER PARKER PERSON!

I'LL BET THAT'S IT! WELL, IF THAT'S TRUE... IF THAT'S WHY HE'S STANDING ME UP--!

WHY I WOULDN'T TAKE HIM BACK NOW, EVEN IF HE CAME CRAWLING ON HIS KNEES, I--

EH--? WHO'S THAT AT THE DOOR?

SPIDER!!

CAT, IT WAS SILVERMAN'S! I-I COULDN'T STOP HIM!

HE BEAT ME-- BAD! AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD--

--HE LET ME GO.

HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED, CAT!

DON'T WORRY, SPIDER, WE'LL STOP HIM!

NO! WE CAN'T DO IT! H-HE'S TOO STRONG! ONLY ONES WHO CAN STOP HIM-- GOT TO FIND THEM, CAT--

--GOT TO FIND CLOAK & DAGGER!

NEXT: THE DAGGER AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!